

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SR-02 ORM-01 AID-05 OMB-01 EB-07 COME-00 ACDA-05 MC-02

EUR-12 AEC-05 OES-03 TRSE-00 /106 W

----- 025901

R 130905Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8815

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY DACCA

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ASMO. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PK, IN, US

SUBJ: GOP AIDE MEMOIRE ON INDIAN OBJECTIONS TO US ARMS
SUPPLY POLICY CHANGE

REF: ISLAMABAD 1350

1. THERE FOLLOWS THE TEXT OF AN AIDE MEMOIRE HANDED
TO FOREIGN ENVOYS IN ISLAMABAD (NOT INCLUDING US) AS
REPORTED IN REFTEL.

2. QUOTE: ON THE OCCASION OF THE PAKISTAN PRIME
MINISTER'S VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES, THE GOVERNMENT
OF INDIA EMBARKED UPON A VOCIFEROUS AND INTENSE CAM-

PAIGN AGAINST THE REMOVAL OF THE U.S. BAN ON SALE OF
ARMS, ALLEGING THAT ANY SALE OF ARMS TO PAKISTAN WOULD
CREATE TENSION AND VITIATE THE PROCESS OF NORMALISATION
IN THE SOUTH ASIAN REGION.

THE U.S. BAN APPLIES TO INDIA AS WELL. BUT INDIA

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OPPOSES ITS REMOVAL BECAUSE IT WANTS PAKISTAN TO REMAIN

CUT OFF FROM ITS TRADITIONAL SOURCE OF SUPPLIES, AND BECAUSE INDIA DOES NOT NEED TO IMPORT ARMS FROM THE UNITED STATES ANY WAY. INDIA POSSESSES A LARGE DOMESTIC WEAPONS INDUSTRY WHICH PRODUCES TANKS AND COMBAT AIRCRAFT, WARSHIPS AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT. BESIDES, IT HAS USUALLY OBTAINED, AND CONTINUES TO GET, SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS FROM THE USSR, INCLUDING MIG-21 AND SU-7 FIGHTERS, T-54 AND T-55 TANKS, SUBMARINES, SAMS, MISSILE BOATS ETC. IN CONTRAST, PAKISTAN'S DOMESTIC ORDNANCE CAPACITY IS INSIGNIFICANT AND THE BAN ON U.S. SALES HAS OBSTRUCTED NOT ONLY THE REPLACEMENT OF OBSOLETE WEAPONS BUT EVEN THE UPKEEP OF ARMS OF U.S. ORIGIN.

WHILE CEASELESSLY CAMPAIGNING TO BLOCK PAKISTAN'S EFFORTS TO SUSTAIN ITS DEFENCE CAPABILITY, INDIA HAS CONTINUED TO EXPAND ITS OWN MILITARY STRENGTH. WITH A MILLION MEN UNDER ARMS, WITH 2,000 TANKS, INDIA HAS THE FOURTH LARGEST ARMY IN THE WORLD; WITH OVER 800 COMBAT AIRCRAFT, IT HAS THE FIFTH LARGEST AIR FORCE; AND ITS NAVY, THE EIGHTH LARGEST, HAS AN AIRCRAFT CARRIER, 6 SUBMARINES AND OVER 60 OTHER CRAFT. INDIA, MOREOVER, HAS DEVELOPED AN EXPLOSIVE NUCLEAR DEVICE WHICH IS TECHNOLOGICALLY NO DIFFERENT FROM A NUCLEAR WEAPON.

INDIA'S MILITARY BUDGET FOR THE CURRENT YEAR EXCEEDS 2,500 MILLION DOLLARS, EXCLUDING THE EXPENDITURE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NUCLEAR DEVICE.

GIVEN THE DISPARITY OF RESOURCES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, PAKISTAN CANNOT OBVIOUSLY BE INTERESTED IN AN ARMS RACE WITH INDIA. BUT GIVEN THE PRIMORDIAL NEEDS OF A STATE IN A HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT, NOT TO MENTION INDIA'S PROCLIVITY TO USE FORCE, PAKISTAN HAS TO MAINTAIN A DEFENCE CAPABILITY.

AS FOR THE INDIAN ARGUMENT THAT PAKISTAN USED THE ARMS IT OBTAINED FROM THE UNITED STATES AGAINST INDIA, IT ONLY NEED TO BE POINTED OUT THAT THE CONFLICTS OF THE PAST WERE NOT OF PAKISTAN'S CHOOSING. INDIA USED ITS OWN AS WELL AS IMPORTED WEAPONS IN AGGRESSIONS AGAINST PAKISTAN. TO DEFEND ITSELF, PAKISTAN HAD TO USE THE WEAPONS IT POSSESSED.

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IN VIEW OF THE DISPARITY IN MILITARY STRENGTH, PAKISTAN CANNOT BE REGARDED AS A THREAT TO INDIA. STILL, IF INDIA CONTINUES TO TRY TO BLOCK PAKISTAN'S EFFORTS TO SUSTAIN EVEN A DEFENCE CAPABILITY, THE CONCLUSION MUST BE DRAWN THAT INDIA'S CONCEPT OF STABILITY IS BASED ON THE TOTAL SECURITY OF INDIA AND THE TOTAL INSECURITY OF PAKISTAN. THAT, HOWEVER, IS NOT A FORMULA FOR STABILITY. IF INDIA SEEKS TO IMPOSE

HEGEMONY AND DOMINATION, THAT CANNOT PROMOTE THE EVOLUTION OF NORMAL GOOD-NEIGHBOURLY RELATIONS AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DURABLE PEACE IN THE REGION.

PAKISTAN HAS MADE A CONSTRUCTIVE CONTRIBUTION TO THE NORMALISATION OF THE SITUATION IN THE SOUTH ASIAN REGION WHICH PAKISTAN BELIEVES SERVES THE INTERESTS OF ALL ITS PEOPLES. BUT THE CONTINUING INDIAN CAMPAIGN AGAINST PAKISTAN'S EFFORTS TO SUSTAIN ITS DEFENCE CAPABILITY CANNOT BUT CAST A SHADOW ON THE PROSPECTS FOR THE FUTURE.

THE INDIAN CAMPAIGN TO BLOCK THE SALE OF ARMS TO PAKISTAN IS A CONCRETE CONTRADICTION OF THE PROFESSIONS OF GOODWILL TOWARDS PAKISTAN THAT INDIAN LEADERS MAKE IN CONVERSATIONS WITH LEADERS OF COUNTRIES THAT DESIRE THE CONSOLIDATION OF PEACE IN THE SOUTH ASIAN REGION.

IT ALSO EVIDENCES DISREGARD FOR THE UNIVERSALLY RECOGNISED PRINCIPLES OF SOVEREIGN EQUALITY OF STATES, MUTUAL RESPECT FOR INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND NON-INTERFERENCE IN EACH OTHER'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. PAKISTAN HOPES THAT INDIA WILL BE DISSUADED FROM THIS ATTITUDE AND CASE EFFORTS TO BLOCK THE REMOVAL OF THE US BAN ON SALE OF ARMS TO PAKISTAN.

UNQUOTE.

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